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CITY OF WASHINGTON.

From the Macon (Georgia) Citizen, (extra,) July 6

ABNER P. POWERS,
WILLIAM K. DEGRAFFENREID,
L. O. REYNOLDS,
ROBERT COLLINS,
ROBERT S. LANIER,
JAMES W. ARMSTRONG,
JOHN B. LAMAR.

supported by either of these claims, is not ordinarily en-titled to expect much attention, and will be more likely to encounter the imputations of presumptiousness than to obtain a thoughtful attention to the views which he may

These considerations, gentlemen, had well nigh determined me against complying with your deeply appreciated request. But when I took another view—when I looked at the matter on another side, and pondered on the momentous character of the issues on which you have naked an expression of my sentiments, and saw, too, what no man can open his eyes to things around him without seeing, that the paramount, patriothe want of the times, in reference to these issues, is a full, fearless, and perfect freedom and unreceive of the southern people in unbosoming themselves, and coming to a clear, trank, manly understanding with one another—when I saw that this was the distinctive, craving want of the times, I fell at once that your call upon me had created an occasion which did not leave me at liberty to be restrained by any refinement of delicacy from performing my part, however humble, towards meeting a want which I regarded as so great and imperative.

out of the acquisition!

Happily bor itself and for the country, such a reproach has not fastened itself on the democratic party, and I confidently believe never will. That this portentous controversy has not ere now been satisfactorily adjusted has been owing to no fault of the democrats as a party—to no want of wise, patriotic foresight, precaution, and exertion on the part of the true democrats of the Union, and their eminent and trusted public men.

At an early moment after the treaty with Mexico, Mr. Polk, as President of the United States, threw the whole weight of his character and official position into the scale, in favor of an adjustment on the principle of extending the line of the Missouri Compromise to the Pacific ocean. This recommendation was made in his message to Congress upon the return of the Oregon bill with his signature. There was every reason to hope that this basis of settlement would be accepted by the country, and particularly by the South; for it had very recently received the seal of renewed national favor and recognition, by being incorporated in the resolution by which Texas was annexed to the Union. Mr. Buchanan brought his unurpassed reputation and weight of character as a statesman, and as a great man, and a great minded, catholic patriot, to bear upon public opinion in concurrence with Mr. Polk's views. And thousands upon thousands of the best democratic minds and hearts in the country were in union with theirs; and the great mass of the party would undoubtedly have readily moved in the same direction. But there were not a few, and among them men of mark, both in the North and South, who were restrained from concurrency with theirs; and the great mass of the party would undoubtedly have readily moved in the same direction. But there were not a few, and among them men of mark both in the North and South, who were restrained from concurring with their brethrea by strong, and apparently insummentable scrupies. They regarded the Missouri Compromise with stein disfavor, as being a s

which did not near we may likely to be restaused as a way which did not near we may likely to be restaused by any retinement of decision meeting, a want which I regarded as see great and imperative.

I proceed, therefore, without longer hesitation, to the best of attempting to told your request. Also the existence of the control of the process of the control of the process of the control of the process of the control of th

of the people in electing him, and the results of his policy and management since his election, have greatly changed the duty of the democratic party, and of southern democrats also, by interposing a manifest impossibility to carrying out the original democratic programme in relation to the Territories. Through his management and influence, and that of his cabinet, California has been led to organize a State government, and, backed by his recommendation, she is now knocking at the door for admission into the light of the proposition of the state of the state

territorial condition. We are compelled, consequently, to give up California as a Territory. She is lost, irretrievably, as a satellite to our system, and can henceforward belong to it only as a star in the grand costellation of States. Possibly we may, by well-directed efforts and judicious co-operation with the friends of measures of conciliation and concord, succeed in procuring a salutary curtailment of her enormous boundaries. Even this, however, there is little chance for—more, it would be wild to think of

But although California is thus lost to us, and lost by no fault or misdoing of the southern democratic party, yet there is nothing whatever in the fact or circumstances of that loss which can operate to exonerate southern democrats from the full and faithful performance of all that part of their original duty in relation to the Territories that yet remains; the newly proposed Territory of Utah remains—both claiming, and ready to receive at our hands, territorial governments upon our own cherished non-increvention principle. Our duty in regard to these Territories is certainly not at all done away or lessened because General Taylor has rendered it impossible for us to perform the like duty in regard to California. On the contrary, that duty is even heightened by the course which General Taylor has pursued in relation to California, and the policy which he is now urging in reference to the other two Territories; which policy unblushingly proposes to withhold from them civil and political organizations, and to treat them as outcasts from government, in order, by such treatment, to drive them to a speedy imitation of the example of California, and to a like irregular and obnoxious claim for admission into the Union.

The duty, then, of southern democrats in relation to

junction with the opinion, prevalent throughout the South that, in the absence of all congressional or territorial legislation to the contrary, the southern people would be entitled in point of law to carry their people would be entitled in point of law to carry their playes into the Territoriae—the passage, I say, of this bill, in conjunction with this prevailing opinion, would make southern men feel secure in emigrating thither with their slaves; and, if there be adequate inducements presented by the soil, climate, and productions—mineral or agricultural—of the country, they will so emigrate to it and plant southern influence there, and in due time bring the States there to be formed into the Union as shaveholding States.

In strongest contrast with all this is the course which things must take if the bill is defeated, and General Taylor's policy of non-action and abandonment of the Territories to an unorganized and lawless State supervensa in its place. In that case, the whole world knows that there will be no immigration of southern slave owners with their property; for men owning any kind of permanent or valuable property, especially slaves in the South, to the absolute security of which they look for the maintenance of their families and a provision for their children, will not risk it in a land destitute of the protection of civil government and laws. In such a land the needy, the lawless, the outlawed, and the desperately adventurous, will mainly congregate. Such will be the character of the population that, under the system recommended by Gen. Taylor, they will at some distant day frame constitutions and governments, and ask for admission into the Union for New Mexico and Utah; and such a population, owning no slaves, and looking merely to the appropriation of the country and its government, and honors to themselves and others of their own sort, will be sure to shut out southern slave owners by an interdict in their State constitution, as the Californians have done.*

The northern whigs, free soilers,

inaction with the opinion, pervalent throughout the South at, in the absence of all congressional or territorial legislation to the country, the southern people would be interested to the country, the southern people would be interested to the southern people would be interested to the southern the southern ment of the sou

has be saked. How is it to be reconciled with the principles of duty for a man to co-operate in the passage of a bill, so material a provision of which he disapproves?

To which I reply, that there never was a wilder, more mistaken, and untenable idea than that a man must approve of all the material provisions of a bill in order to make it his duty to co-operate with its friends, and to give it his final support and vote. Such a principle would be incalculably pernicious. It would amount to a practical repudiation of all republican government, by rendering legislation itself an impracticable thing, under such a government. The very constitution of the United States was adopted by means of the votes of members of the federal convention who were dissatisfied with tauth that it contained and much that it omitted. It was ratified in the State conventions by receiving numerous votes from those who voted for it with reluctant and dissatisfied minds. It was a strong, all conquering sense of duty that constrained them to vote for what they disapproved, in order that they might get along with it what they felt to be needful for the salvation of the country. And shall we take upon ourselves to be so much better than our fathera? After they, with manly wisdom and greatness, have formed a constitution and founded a government by acting on the principle of concession, conditation, and compromise, sacrificing, in a multitude of important points, items strong individual opinions and sectional feelings, shall we be so degenerate as to refuse to act on that principle, even in a case where the very preservation of their giorious work requires it at our hands? Shall we, though standing on their gigantic shoulders, be such interesty leave our country to all the awful hazards of the impending crisis, because, forsooth, before we can be prevaled on to give our immaculate vote to its salvation, we must have a law proposed to us which shall, in all its provisions, square exactly with our particular items? Shall we be guilty of such a